ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE FIFTY-SECOND AND THIRTY-FOURTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE

TALLASAHATCHEE AND TEN ISLAND

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH HEBRON CHURCH, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA,
OCTOBER 3, 4 AND 5, 1885.

OFFICERS:

John A. Scott, Moderator.....Davisville, Ala.
Wm. H. Burton, Clerk.....Howel's X Roads, Ala.
J. B. Graham, Assistant Clerk.....Spring Garden, Ala.
W. H. Ballard, Treasurer.....Centre, Ala.
J. R. Graham, Chairman Ex. Com.....Ladiga, Ala.

The next session will meet at Cross Plains, Ala. Introductory Sermon by Elder J. F. Potter. Missionary Sermon by W. H. Burton.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA:
JAS. P. HARRISON & CO., PRINTERS AND BINDERS
1885.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS.

ORGANIC.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Recess.
3. Call to order. Singing and prayer.
4. Call for letters of churches by districts.
5. Read letters and record delegates' names.
6. Elect Moderator and Clerk.

REGULAR ORDER—NEW ORGANIZATION.

1. Invite visiting bretbren and welcome them.
2. Call for petitionary letter.
3. Call for correspondents and appoint the same.
4. Appoint committees to report at this session.
5. Name home for friends.
6. Adjourn for Christian Sabbath.

THIRD DAY.

1. Call to order. Prayer. Renew call for correspondents.
2. Call roll of churches and correct errors.
3. Read Constitution, Abstract of Principles and Decorum.
4. Call for reports of standing committees.
5. Appoint standing committees.
6. Appoint time and place of next session.
7. Miscellaneous business.
8. Attend to corresponding letter.
9. Hear resolutions.
10. Read and correct the minutes and adjourn to time and place appointed.

Tabular Statement of the Churches.

	CHURCHES.	POST-OFFICES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Restored.	Dead.	Total.	For Minutes.	Days of Meeting.	Constituted.
1st District.	Hebron	Hebron	J. E. Smith	B. W. Duke	2	6	6	...	...	2	131	$ 3 00	1	1839
	Ohatchee	Jacksonville	D. C. Robinett	T. J. Plexico	10	8	16	...	...	...	37	1 20	2	1878
	Friendship	Jacksonville	D. C. Robinett	J. A. Johnson	2	1	3	...	1	...	25	75	4	1871
	New Hopewell	Allsup	M. A. Cornelius	D. D. Nabors	6	6	5	1	1	...	75	1 50	2	1871
	Pisgah	Gnatville	A. J. West	J. B Collins	2	1	7	...	1	1	55	1 50	1	1844
	Cross Plains	Cross Plains	G. D. Harris	M. T. Ledbetter	8	15	11	...	1	1	67	1 75	2	1870
	Mt. Olive	Jacksonville	D. C. Robinett	J. M. Rhodes	9	2	.....	...	...	...	30	1 20	2	1885
2d District.	Nance's Creek	Cross Plains	J. F. Potter	J. A. Borden	.....	2	6	...	...	...	43	1 25	1	1865
	Rabbit Town	Rabbit Town	J. F. Potter	R. P. Defreese	6	4	2	1	3	1	69	1 50	2	1836
	Harmony	Chocolocco	J. A. Scott	A. J. H. Borders	20	9	2	1	...	1	168	3 00	2	1838
	New Bethel	Berea	D. R. Johnson	S. T. Rhodes	2	4	12	4	...	...	99	.....	4	1879
	Pleasant Ridge	White Plains	W. W. Coleman	E. W. Cobb	8	12	3	3	...	2	86	2 50	1	1880
	Zion Hill	White Plains	J. F. Potter	A. N. Ward	5	4	2	1	1	2	118	2 50	3	.....
3d District.	Mt. Zion	Spring Garden	J. C. Holden	I. A. Ellis	19	9	9	2	2	1	84	1 50	3	1853
	Liberty	Pleasant Gap	W. S. Griffin	E. Roberts	5	13	8	2	...	2	130	2 50	1	1839
	Amberson	Spring Garden	J. M. B. Gresham	T. N. White	4	.....	9	...	...	...	23	1 00	4	1881
	Pilgrim's Rest	Forney	J. W. King	J. W. Baker	3	2	2	1	...	...	20	75	1	1878
	Bethel	Forney	J. W. King	M. J. Abernothy	14	5	4	...	2	3	85	1 00	2	1849
	Nazareth	Forney	V. A. Brewster	James Conner	5	3	4	...	...	2	68	1 00	1	1860
	Sandy Creek	Forney	Thomas Hollis	R. W. Landrum	27	8	7	...	...	...	99	1 50	4	1865
	Antioch	Chocolocco	W. W. Coleman	W. F. Wells	5	11	2	...	...	...	15	1 50	4	1884
4th District.	Providence	Centre	W. H. Moon	T. W. Moon	.....	1	.....	6	...	3	51	1 00	4	1841
	Centre	Centre	J. M. B Gresham	J. Millsaps	.....	.....	.....	...	...	...	34	.....	2	1845
	Tate's Chapel	Centre	W H. Burton	J. J. Snead	10	3	.....	2	...	...	65	1 50	1	1883
	Pleasant Valley	Centre	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...	...	43	.....	1	1875
	Pine Grove	Centre	E. Wilson	Van Fleming	.....	.....	.....	...	...	...	100	.....	...	1858
	Chalcedonia	Howel's X Roads	W. H. Burton	L. W. Watts	6	4	5	...	...	1	49	1 25	2	1851
	Friendship	Howel's X Roads	W. H. Burton	D. F. Wood	24	18	7	...	2	...	126	2 00	3	1839
	New Bethel	Key	W. H. Moon	E. M. Sorrell	21	9	1	13	1	1	54	1 50	1	1881
	Total				213	155	129	37	13	20	2168	$38 55	...	.....

Only thirteen Sabbath-schools reported.

PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST DAY.

The Fifty-second and Thirty-Fourth Annual Session of the Tallasahatchee and Ten Island Baptist Association was held with the Baptist church at Hebron, Calhoun county, Alabama, commencing on Saturday, October 3d, 1885, at 10 o'clock. a. m.

Introductory Sermon by Elder E. T. Read. Text: Rom. viii. 20, "What shall we say to these things?"

Prayer by Elder M. Garrett.

Adjourned to 2 o'clock p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

2 o'clock p. m.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, Elder John A. Scott.

Read 15th chapter 1st Cor. Sung, "There is a fountain filled with blood."

Prayer by Elder John B. Mynatt.

Letters read by J. B. Graham and E. D. McLellen.

DELEGATES PRESENT.

FIRST DISTRICT.

Hebron—J. H. Henderson. W. G. Duke, M. B. Jelks.
Ohatchee—Elder D C. Robinett, Z. Williams.
Friendship—Elder E. T. Read, J. A. Johnson, M. C. Johnson.
New Hopewell—T. Littlejohn, D. D. Nabors, B. D. Plexico.
Pisgah—I. H Coley, J. B. Collins.
Cross Plains—Elder A. J. West, E. D. McLellen, S. D. McLellen.
Mount Olive—J. M. Rhodes, J. T, Green, W. Green.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Nance's Creek—R. Gladden. C. E. Borden.
Rabbit Town—Elder J. F. Potter, D A. Hall, R. P. Defresse.
Harmony—Elder J. A. Scott, James R. Coleman, Elder W. W. Coleman.
New Bethel—R. C. Johnson, Noah Stephens.
Pleasant Ridge—E. W. Cobb, B. Britt, M. V. Steadham.
Zion Hill—J. P. Ward, W. Thompson.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Mt. Zion—I. A. Ellis, J. L. Kite.
Liberty—J. R. Graham, J. B. Graham, G. D. Hanks.
Amberson—Letter.
Pilgrim's Rest—Elder W. H. Stephens, J. W. Baker.
Bethel—Not represented.
Nazareth—W. H. Burton.
Sandy Creek—L. A. McCarley.
Antioch—W. F. Wells, J. Lambreath, J. Reeves.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Providence—J. G. Moon.
Centre—Not represented.
Tate's Chapel—W. H. Ballard, R. T. Ewing.
Pleasant Valley—Not represented.
Pine Grove—Not represented.
Chalcedonia - Letter
Friendship—J. K. Neyman, Elder E. A. Hall, W. S. Williams.
New Bethel—W. A. Payne, J. E Snead.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Moderator—Elder John A. Scott, re-elected by acclamation.
Clerk—Wm. H. Burton. re-elected by acclamation.
Assistant Clerk—J. B. Graham, re-elected by acclamation.

RECEIVED AS VISITING BRETHREN.

Elder J. E. Smith and brother M A. Smith, from the Etowah Association; Elders J B. Mynatt and W. S Griffin, from the Coosa river; Elder W. H. Smith, Evangelist for Tallassahatchee and Ten Island Association, from the Canaan; brother J. M. Andrews, from San Marcus, Tex.

PETITIONARY LETTERS.

Received Mount Olive and Antioch Churches which were, on motion, attached to the First and Third Districts.

CORRESPONDENTS.

From the Coosa River, Elder D. P. Williams, W. P. Cooper, T. H. Clements and Elder G. D Harris.
Cedar Bluff Elder W. H. Moon.
Harmony, V. M. Thackerson
Boiling Springs, Elder A. F. Allen, W. J. Young.
Etowah, C. W. P. Phillips J. M. Vinson, Elder J. E. Smith, W. R. Ackridge.

APPOINTED CORRESPONDENTS.

Coosa River, W. H Burton, J. R. Graham, J. P. Ward, B. W. Duke, E. D McLellen, J. B Graham and Elders J. A. Scott and D. C. Robinett. Meets at Weaver's on Saturday before the 3d Sabbath in September, 1886.
Cedar Bluff W. H. Ballard, W. T Ewing, J. G. Moon, W. H. Burton.
Harmony, Elders W. W. Coleman, W. H. Burton. At Shiloh, Saturday before the 3d Sunday in September, 1886.
Boiling Springs, Elders J. A. Scott, M. Garnett and M. V. Steadham. Meets at Delta, Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1886.
Cave Spring, Elders E A. Hall, W. H Burton and J. B. Graham. At Cedar Creek. Tuesday after the 2d Sunday in October, 1885.
Etowah, W. H. Ballard At Duck Springs, Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1886.
Baptist State Convention, Elders J. A. Scott, W. H. Burton. E. T. Read, M. Garrett and J. B. Graham. At Birmingham, July 16th, 1886.

COMMITTEES.

Preaching—G. D. Hanks, J. K. Neyman, R. C. Johnson with the deacons of Hebron Church.
Finance—J. R. Graham, I. A. Ellis J. W Baker.
Deceased Ministers—Elder E. T. Read, J. P. Ward, D D. Nabors.
Documents—Elders J. F. Potter, D. C. Robinett, R. G adden.
Nominations—R. T. Ewing, J. E. Snead, E. W. Cobb.

Elder W. D. Taylor being absent, appointed Elder W. W. Coleman to report on "Reading the Bible. Appointed W. H. Ballard on Prayer Meetings in place of Elder Thomas Blair, absent.

NAMED HOMES FOR DELEGATES.

Sung, "Prayer was Appointed to Convey."
Prayer by brother J R. Graham.
Benediction by Elder E. T. Read.

SATURDAY NIGHT.

Preaching at the Church by Elder A. F. Allen, at the Academy by Elder W. S. Griffin.

SABBATH MORNING.

Preaching at 10 o'clock, a. m. by Elder W. H. Smith; text, "Awake, put on thy strength," etc., "Go ye therefore and teach," etc, "The kingdoms of this world," etc.

11 o'clock.—Missionary Sermon by Elder John A. Scott; text, "Righteousness exalteth a nation." Collection, $17.60.

2 o'clock P. M.—Preaching by Elder G. D. Harris; text, 'Grow in Grace," etc.

Large and attentive congregations, not half getting in the house. Brother Smith commenced filled with the spirit, and brethren Scott and Harris held the audience spell-bound by their feeling and able discourses. It will be a day long to be remembered by those present.

AT NIGHT.

Elders Griffin and Burton at the Church, Elder Potter at Oak Bowery, and Elder W. W. Coleman at the Academy.

MONDAY MORNING.

9 o'clock A. M.

The Association met.
Prayer by Elder W H. Stephens.
Called roll and marked absentees.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

FAMILY RELIGION.

Family religion is a subject of very great importance to the spiritual life of a Christian, and perhaps there is nothing that would tend to more happiness, and enjoyment in a family circle than to have the spirit of our blessed God dwelling in the hearts of all the members of a religious family, and if two or three of any family could be in the spirit, it would help to kindle a flame of sacred love in all hearts who are members of or connected with any family. But how can we infuse a principle of love in our hearts and make home a happy home? One great hindrance with most of families or heads of families is, our devotions and services are not seasoned with the spirit of our Heavenly Father. We make it a formal service; a lesson read in the Scriptures, and a prayer offered, not in the spirit of God, is vain and often tends to discourage those of the family that are unconverted. I believe it is a mockery for a Christian to pray in his family or in the public assemblies, unless guided and influenced by the spirit of our Heavenly Father, for we are taught in that Holy Book, that true worshipers *shall* worship in spirit and truth, and that God seeketh such to worship him; and that God is a spirit and they that worship *must* worship Him in spirit and truth; we are told that we *shall* and *must* worship in spirit. God has plainly told us if we have not the spirit we are none of His—but has said that He will give his spirit to

them that ask Him; if we desire, expect and ask for the Holy Spirit to dwell with us, we will not be disappointed; we are told if we come to God in a scriptural way, that the windows of heaven will be opened and a blessing be poured out that we will not be able to contain. Whatsoever we ask in the name of our Saviour believing, we shall receive it, but we often ask and do not receive because we ask amiss; but God will not turn us off empty if we come to him in the way laid down in that blessed Book. Another great trouble with us in making our homes sweet on account of the presence of God, is, we don't talk enough about our religion, perhaps pass days, weeks and months without naming our religion. We are free to talk of every thing else but our religion, of the precious seasons we have enjoyed in days passed by and gone; we must talk about and think about heaven and heavenly things if we would enjoy religion in our homes or away from our homes.

I hope all good sisters will pardon me when I say the lack of enjoyment in our family religion is in a large measure chargeable to them. They have a work to do—as every child of God has a work to do—and I believe that the work for the women is mainly in home circles. Their influence in the family none will deny for good, or for evil, and while they may not think their silence on religious subjects carry an influence that cripples religion in her family, yet, it is true and lamentably true. I believe there are thousands of brethren who do not hold family prayer, that would cheerfully do so, if encouraged by the wife, daughter or sister But first, my sister, strive to be in the spirit of our Master; try and let your countenance glow with the love of God, and it will be caught up by all the household of believers, and touch the hearts of the unconverted, and the prayer will be seasoned with the love of God, and the whole family made happy. But another great trouble is, we are ashamed of our religion; are too timid on religious subjects in our families; and why be ashamed of religion and the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation, and it is a fearful thought to be ashamed of our religion at home or abroad for if we are ashamed of our religion and of the Wordof God in this sinful and adulterous world, our Saviour will be ashamed of us before his Father and the holy angels. We cannot make our home a paradise, but we can make it a happy home if we properly cultivate a religious spirit and principles. Then let us talk a great deal about our religion at home. Strive to have the spirit of our Master to dwell with us at home and abroad, and adopt the poets prayer as our prayer:

"Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly dove,
With all thy quick'ning powers;
Kindle a flame of sacred love
In these cold hearts of ours."

Respectfully submitted. J. R. Graham.

After discussion by Elders Scott, Read, Burton, Smith, Garrett, Hall and J. R. Graham, adopted.

READING THE BIBLE.

"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." The Bible has God for its author; truth, without mixture of error, for its matter; salvation for its object. The Bride, the Lamb's wife, is its preserver—"the Church of God which is the pillar and ground of truth." Man by nature is lost, and without the Bible must remain lost forever. But the Bible, the sword of the Spirit, the gift of God to man, is the school-book from which we learn our origin, our end, our lost and sinful condition. It is the way bill, the inspired guide from God, by which we may navigate the sea of life and make the port securely.

Brethren, there are too many dusty, unread Bibles in our homes, and too few that are worn by constant use. Let us study the Bible more. Let us obey Christ and "search the Scriptures."

W. W. Coleman.

On motion, adopted.

MISSIONS.

The beloved Master, before his ascension to heaven to the right hand of Power as Mediator for his people, directed them through his apostles to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. This language I understand, properly interpreted, to mean to go to the human race within every age and nation composed of the lost and sin-defiled sons and daughters of the first Adam, who inhabit the planet called earth until the mediatorial reign of Great Messiah shall cease to be known by the descent of the Lord himself from heaven with a shout with the voice of the archangel and trumpet of God, and then, and then only, do we understand the commission to cease.

His people, to whom this commission, go with the Gospel to every creature, was committed through his apostles, are a peculiar people, called out by the voice of the Son of God in the gospel, constituting in their obedience to and observance of gospel become subjects of Christ's visible kingdom upon earth, a collection of immersed believers in Christ, the ecclesia, whose household is added to from age to age through the promise of the gospel of this kingdom.

This people have been for eighteen centuries, as churches, subjected to persecution and distress, restricted by earthly rulers, tyrants and despots in the exercise of religious freedom until the establishment of the North American Republic, where the liberty of conscience is conceded. Since this time the churches have had repose, and the renewed effort to carry out the great commission of the divine Master has been blessed by the reception of the gospel by different heathen nations in Asia Africa, Europe and America. We have the witness of the Holy Spirit approving the gospel view which we take of God's word and the construction we place thereon of gospel ordinances, obligations and discipline. We therefore think we may take great comfort and courage in the continued effort to preach the gospel to every creature in all the world. From a little remnant we have become, by the grace of God, an exceeding great army, numbering millions of immersed believers standing for the cause of our Redeemer, who has also entrusted to our care as his stewards five schools, colleges and facilities of learning his word and will, and has moreover given us wealth and influence to a greater extent than at any time of the gospel dispensation since the day of his ascension and commission to us to extend his word to the uttermost bounds of earth.

Therefore, brethren, we see divine testimony given to our work hitherto in the furtherance of gospel truth. Baptists have received in missionary fields more converts in the last ten years than all other denominations in the United States. Let us, therefore, as faithful servants of the household of God, employ the rich fruits of his goodness to attain the following objects, to wit: Our plan of work is before you. We propose to raise during the conventional year, 1885-86, for State missions, $12,000; Home missions, $4,000; Foreign missions, $5,000; for Bible work, $500; for work amongst colored people, $500; for indigent ministers, $1,000; in all, $25,000. Can it be done? Relying upon God and the hearty co-operation of our pastors it can be done.

In conclusion we do beg that earnest effort be made by our churches to raise something worth while. E. T. READ

After speeches by Elders Allen, Smith, Hall, Garrett, Griffin and Bro. J. R. Graham, adopted

TOOK UP COLLECTION FOR MISSIONS.

STATE MISSIONS.

Hebron	$ 11 00	Mrs. T. H. Kimble	25
Ohatchee	5 00	Mrs. S. G. Dickey	25
Friendship, 1st District	5 00	Mrs. D. C. Archer	25
New Hopewell	6 00	Miss B. Lands	25
Pisgah	0 00	Miss Carrie Griffin	25
Cross Plains	15 00	Miss Ollie Dollgin	50
Nance's Creek	5 00	Mrs. E. Harrison	25
Rabbit Town	16 00	Mrs. G. D. Bryant	10
Harmony	10 00	Mrs. J Kimbrell	1 00
New Bethel, 2d District	2 00	Miss H. C. Dickey	50
Pleasant Ridge	5 00	Mrs. P. Duke paid	1 00
Zion Hill	10 00	J. P. Ward	1 00
Mt. Zion	6 00	W. A. Payne paid	20
Liberty	30 00	A. F. Allen paid	50
Amberson	00 00	J. A. Johnson	50
Pilgrim's Rest	00 00	D. C. Robinett	1 00
Nazareth	00 00	D. D. Nabors	50
Sandy Creek	13 50	J. G. Moon	1 00
Providence	5 00	J. M. Harralson	1 00
Centre	0 00	J. H. Coley paid	1 00
Tate's Chapel	12 00	J. Harcrow paid	50
Pleasant Valley	00 00	J. B. Collins paid	1 00
Pine Grove	00 00	T. Littlejohn	1 00
Chalcedonia	5 00	A. B. Littlejohn paid	1 00
Friendship, 4th District	22 75	S. R. Lester	2 50
New Bethel, 4th District	6 00	W. W. Pruitt	3 00
Bethel	20 00	W. S. Burgess	50
Mt. Olive	5 00	J. P. Nerry	50
Antioch	5 00	J. L. Kite	50
J. Plexico	2 00	Miss Electa Burton paid	35
R. T. Ewing	1 00	C. E. Barden	25
Mrs. R. T Ewing	50	R. Gladden	1 00
Miss Josie Duke	25	J. M. Andrews	5 00
Mrs Ellen Duke	25	D. A. Hall	50
Mrs. Sarah Dickey	25	Collected on Sabbath	17 60
Mrs. J. R. Graham	1 00		
Mrs. Ira Swords	25	Total	$272 50
Mrs. Emily Parker	25		

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Harmony	20 00	B. D Plexico	1 00
Pilgrim's Rest	3 75	Coleman	1 00
Sandy Creek	13 50	J. F. Gilliland	1 00
E. T. Read	5 00	J. R. Coleman	1 00
Miss Carrie Griffin	25	J. W. Baker paid	1 00
Mrs. Fullenwilder	25		
W. H. Ballard	1 00	Total	$ 84 75

INDIGENT MINISTERS.

J. K. Neyman	1 00	W. S. Williams	1 00
Miss Carrie Griffin	25	L. A. McCarley paid	1 00
E. A. Hall	1 00	G. D. Hanks	1 00
J. F. Potter	1 00		
W. H. Stephens	50	Total	$ 7 75
I. A. Ellis	1 00		

BIBLE WORK.

Allen Johnson	25
J. W. Bates	1 00
Miss Carrie Griffin	25
Total	$ 1 50
Grand total	$329 45

On motion, adjourned to 3 o'clock p. m.
Prayer by Elder E T. Read.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

The Association met. Sung, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul." Prayer by W. H. Burton.
Called for report on

TEMPERANCE.

The excessive use of strong drink is most ruinous to the social and religious relations of life. Drunkenness is pointedly condemned in the Scriptures, and the drunkard forever debarred from heaven by the word of God. God's people are commanded to be holy, and to abstain from the very appearance of evil. It is truthfully attested by the sad experience of thousands and the observation of all, that moderate drinking is the stepping stone to drunkenness. The church member who sells to his brother or fellow-man ardent spirits to be used as a beverage is living daily exposed to the woe which God pronounces in Habakkuk ii 15. We are glad to report that the use of ardent spirits is decreasing among the Baptist denomination. Brethren, is there a true lover of Jesus among us who would be found drinking this destructive liquid, or is there one who is dealing out the abominable stuff? Let us think of the wonderful condescension of the Son of God in the assumption of human flesh; the life of purity; his immaculate character; his agonizing death, and all, all for us. Can any lover of such a Saviour be found today doing willfully what is displeasing to the Master. Now it certainly does not please him for men to be engaged as instruments in the destruction of the souls and bodies of men. As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord so walk ye in him. We would recommend that each pastor, during the next associational year, be requested to preach one or more sermons to their churches in charge on the all-important subject of the great temperance cause, so that young church members may be established, and be in conformity to the teachings of God's holy word, which says be sober.

Respectfully submitted. W. H. STEPHENS.

After speeches by Elders G. D. Harris, M. Garrett and W. H. Burton, adopted

PRAYER MEETINGS.

We are admonished in the word of God to often assemble ourselves together, and where is a more suitable place than in a prayer meeting capacity? There all can mingle their voices in hymns of praise and in prayer. Prayer is not the multiplication of words, but the sincere desire of the heart unuttered or expressed. We are commanded by our Heavenly Father to "pray without ceasing." We do not understand by this that we should be engaged in prayer every moment of our lives, but when we know, from the teachings of the word, that it is our duty to do so. Our Saviour, in his personal work on earth, prayed often, and taught his disciples how to pray. Almost the last act of his life was prayer for his enemies. David, a man after God's own heart, was often engaged in prayer; so was good old Job. The prophet Daniel was a man of prayer, and his prayers were heard. Witness the prayers of the Hebrew children and how they escaped the fiery furnace. Brethren, God has promised his people that he will hear and answer prayer, but we must remember that

we should pray in faith. God's word teaches us that if we ask amiss we shall not receive. We should be often engaged in secret prayer, and if we come to God this way, in faith, we shall be rewarded openly.

We should be oftener at the family altar. This is a duty we should not neglect. Where is the Christian father, when his head presses the dying pillow, could bear the thought of hearing his child say: "I never heard my father pray! I never saw him gather his family around the hearthstone and thank God for his blessings, and implore a continuance of the same."

Several of our churches have reported prayer-meetings. This is as it should be. Many are without such meetings, and my brethren, if we expect to grow in grace, be strengthened in the faith and the power of the Holy Spirit, we must rise up, shake off the corroding dust of inertness, and do our whole duty in the prayer-meeting work. Then will Zion prosper and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord. We recommend that all of our churches organize and keep up prayer-meetings. W. H. BALLARD.

Adopted.

SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

This subject has, and still is, eliciting a great deal of thought and discussion by our people. Therefore it must be of importance to the prosperity of Zion. Doubtless it has been the means or instrumentality through which much lasting good has been accomplished. But we do not believe that all has been effected through this grand medium of usefulness that might have been. While it has been differently defined by different brethren and bodies, yet without question it must be a good cause, therefore its work a good one, in which all of our church members should engage. We trust that the churches of this Association will soon come more in sympathy with the Sunday-school cause, and that they will see and feel the importance of its work in each church in its real light. We notice that there has been no improvement among us in this work the past year. Last year there were sixteen Sabbath schools reported, this year thirteen, and we trust that the work may continue and advance until each church will become enthused with the spirit and work. This is desirable, but how are we to reach that point? By getting our membership to see and feel personally that they are identified with the interest of this work. It will take time, labor and patience to accomplish this yet we should be energetic and allow no opportunity to pass unimproved in working to that end The pastor's place in this line of Christian duty should be recognized by him and church as an important one, and should be so filled as to evince that he is the leading spirit in the work. As to literature in the Sunday-schools of our churches, we would say that in connection with the Bible, it should be strictly denominational and such as would elicit attractive thought and devotional feeling in studying the Bible, with a view of knowing and receiving personally its contents, thereby becoming wise unto salvation and Christian fulness, to the glory of God in spirit and body.

Respectfully submitted. J. F. POTTER.

After discussion by W. H. Burton, Elder E. A. Hall and W. H. Ballard, adopted.

THE NEXT SESSION.

Agreed to hold the next session of this body at Cross Plains, Calhoun county, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1886.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Inquired about Colporteur fund. Answer by J. R. Graham: "In the hands of Brother Bailey, who will act in the matter as soon as possible." A few dollars of this fund are yet unpaid. Brethren, why don't you send it to J. R. Graham, Ladiga, Ala?

Called for report on

DECEASED MINISTERS.

We thankfully report that no minister has been removed by death from our ranks this year. E. T. READ, Chairman.

DOCUMENTS.

We recommend the careful reading of the Bible and the following religious journals: *Alabama Baptist, Home and Foreign Mission Journal, Christian Index, Tennessee Baptist* and the *Baptist Reflector.*

J. F. POTTER, Chairman.

NOMINATIONS.

Introductory Sermon.—Elder J. F Potter; alternate, Elder A. J. West.
Missionary Sermon.—Elder W. H Burton; alternate, Elder John A. Scott. R. T. EWING, Chairman.

FINANCE.

Cash on hand	$ 87 96
Cash collected on Sabbath and from old and new pledges	129 00
	$216 96

Paid to Treasurer. J. R. GRAHAM, Chairman.

TREASURER.

Received of Finance Committee		$216 96
Paid to J. R. Graham, Chairman Ex. Committee	$178 41	
Paid Clerk for Minutes	38 55	
		$216 96

W. H. BALLARD, Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Received of Treasurer	$178 41
In our hands for Missions	38 55
	216 96
Paid to W. H. Smith, Evangelist	160 00
	76 96
Collected for Foreign Missions	58 90
Collected on Colporteur Fund	5 00
Total cash on hand	$140 86

We made an effort to procure the services of Brother Skipper as Evangelist, but failed. We then, upon Brother Bailey's recommendation, employed W. H. Smith. See his report.

J. R. GRAHAM, Chairman Ex. Committee.

REPORT OF EVANGELIST.

To J. R. Graham, Chairman Executive Committee:

During the time that I have engaged in the work as evangelist for the Tallasahatchee and Ten Island Association, I have traveled 700 miles, preached 140 sermons, made 20 prayer meeting talks, and 7 addresses to Sabbath-schools. I have visited all the churches but one. As the results there have been 165 additions to the churches in connection with the meetings in which I have aided. Of these 122 were by baptism, 40 by letter. 3 by restoration. There have been 130 conversions as nearly as we could estimate the number. I have never seen churches more revived than they are in some parts of the field. I feel that God has blessed my feeble efforts. Respectfully submitted. W. H. SMITH.

On motion, continued the same Executive Committee and Treasurer.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

First District—Agreed to hold a Sunday-school mass meeting at New Hopewell, commencing on Friday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1886.

Third District—At Liberty, Friday before the 1st Sunday in August, 1886.

Fourth District—At Tate's chapel, Friday before the 4th Sunday in August, 1886.

APPOINTED STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Living in the Spirit of Family Prayer—Elder M. Garrett.
Reading the Bible—Elder A. J. West.
Missions—W. H. Burton.
Temperance—Elder J. A. Scott.
Prayer Meetings—John R. Graham.
Sabbath schools—Elder J. W. King.
Education—J. B. Graham.
How can we make our Churches Spiritual all the Year?—Elder M. Garrett.
The best plan to get up a Revival in our Churches—J. R. Graham.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That we heartily endorse the action of Providence Church in excluding one H. S. Jones and demanding his letter and credentials, and only regret that she did not do so sooner.

WHEREAS, It is reported that Pine Grove Church does not wish to be represented in this body; that she has been inviting one H. S. Jones to preach for them; that one of her licentiates has been aiding said H. S. Jones in one of his meetings; that their pastor, Elder E. Wilson, sometimes preaches that Christ was only a man, and that there will be no resurrection of the body; therefore be it

Resolved, That Elders E. T. Read, J. F. Potter and brother J. R. Graham be appointed a committee to visit said church and ascertain if there be any truth in said reports, and report to this body at its next session.

Resolved, That it is the duty of this Association to ask and demand of any church or churches failing or refusing to contribute to Missions reasons for said failure or refusal.

Resolved, That this Association respectfully advise and urge of every church of this body, at their December meetings, to ascertain through their deacons if any member has failed or refused to pay their pastor anything, and if so, why?

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be requested to obtain, if possible, the services of Elder W. H. Smith as our Evangelist for next year.

Resolved, That we return thanks to the brethren of this church, and friends of the community, for their hospitality and kindness shown us during our stay with them.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN—Our Association met according to appointment. We thank you for your correspondence.

Our next session is appointed to convene with Cross Plains Church, Calhoun county, Ala., on Saturday before the first Sabbath in October, 1886.

We invite correspondence from your bodies, and our prayer is that the rich blessings of God, our heavenly father, may be with you.

After singing a familiar hymn, taking the parting hand, and prayer by Elder M. Garrett, the Association adjourned to the time and place appointed.

Benediction by Elder E. T. Read.

JOHN A. SCOTT, Moderator.

WM H. BURTON, Clerk.

CONDENSED HISTORY OF THE CHURCHES.

HARMONY.

Constituted on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in April, 1838, by Elder Silas Witt.

Members in the Constitution.—John Borders, James A. Williams, James Eaton, Nathaniel Cobb, Nathaniel Witt, Wm. Amorine, Cynthia Borders, Cornelia Williams, Nancy Eaton. Lurana Cobb, Elizabeth Elston, Ned, a colored man belonging to John Borders, and Milly, a colored woman belonging to John Elston. Thirteen in all

Next meeting elected Elder Moore pastor and Wm. Amorine clerk. Brother Moore served two years. Elected Brethren John Borders and A. D. Waldrop deacons. They were ordained by the following Presbytery: Elders S G. Jenkins, Richard Pace, Chamb'iss, Witt, Moore and Henderson That meeting was protracted twelve days and resulted in the accession of thirty-five by baptism. Elder S. G. Jenkins accepted the call as pastor for the year 1840 and served the church thirteen years. Elder E. T. Smyth was pastor in 1853. Elder Jordan Williams then served until December, 1856; Elder J J. D Renfroe was then pastor until December, 1858; Elder W. C Mynatt was pastor from 1858 to January, 1864; then Elder E. T. Smyth served until January, 1872; since then Elder John A. Scott has been our faithful pastor. The church has been greatly blessed under his labors. When he was chosen pastor we numbered 62; now our membership is 168. September, 1885. A. J. H. Borders, Clerk.

PISGAH.

This church was constituted March 9th, 1844. Elder Silas Witt, Moderator, and W. R. Graham, Clerk. Members in the Constitution: James Glover, deacon; Hampton Whatley, Alex. Graham, H. Glover, W. R. Graham, John Parker, Wm. Brown, Mary Glover, Penelope Whatley, Mary Graham, Hannah Parker, Serena Brown, Zilla E. Glover. Joined the Tallasahatchee Association in 1844. Elder S. Witt pastor until 1851, then Elder Philip Archer until 1852, then Elder Wm. Taylor until 1854, then Elder Coleman Crow until 1856. Elder S. Witt was again chosen and served until 1858, then Elder W. N. Chandler served us two years. In 1860, Elder J. F. Catlett was chosen pastor and served until 1879, then Elder J. F. Potter until 1881, then Elder H. A. Williams until 1884, when our present pastor, Elder A. J. West, was chosen.

CLERKS.

W. R. Graham, until 1840; W. J. Kennedy, until 1849; Charles Tankersly, until 1862; B. F. Park, until 1864; C. Tankersly, until 1880; C. F. Rice, until 1882; H. C. Clement, until 1883; J. T. Penny, until 1884; W. L. Wallace, until 1885. J. B. Collins is the present Clerk.

ORDINATIONS.

Wm. C. Witt was ordained a minister September 8th, 1849; Miles A. Cornelius ordained minister December 30, 1872.

DEACONS.

John Parker, ordained August 10th, 1844; E. Penny, ordained August 12th, 1849; W. L. Wallace, ordained November 5th, 1882; I. H. Coley and J. B. Collins, August 23d, 1885, October 3d, 1885.

J. B Collins, Clerk.

Hebron, Liberty, Providence and Chalcedonia will please send history to next meeting.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

John A. Scott.....Davisville, Ala
J. F. Potter.....White Plains, Ala
M. Garrett.....DeArmonville, Ala
E. T. Read.....Jacksonville, Ala
H. A. Williams.....Cross Plains, Ala
E. A. Hall.....Kirks Grove, Ala
W. H. Stephens. .....Rock Run, Ala
D. R. Johnson..Martin'sXRoads, Ala
W. H. Burton...Howel'sXRoads Ala
W. W. Coleman.. ....Chocolocco, Ala
J. V. Rhodes .....Chocolocco, Ala
W. D. Taylor.....Centre, Ala
E. Wilson.....Centre, Ala
A. J. West... .....Cross Plains, Ala
J. W. King..... .....Forney, Ala
D. C. Robinett.....Jacksonville, Ala

UNORDAINED.

T. S. Nabors.....Cross Plains, Ala
J. K. Neyman..... Key, Ala
Z. T. Debery.....Forney, Ala
J. M. Debery.....Forney, Ala
W. A. Payne.....Forney, Ala
D. Keener..... ...Centre, Ala
D. Calhoun.....Peek's Hill, Ala
W. Ayers.....Cross Plains, Ala
E. D. Acker .....Cross Plains, Ala
Riley Ragan.....Centre, Ala
S. L. Cross.....White Plains, Ala
Thomas Blair..... .. Centre, Ala
Noah Stephens.....Berea, Ala
A. Baker.....White Plains, Ala
M. V. Steadham..White Plains, Ala
J. N. Whitehead...Stock's Mill, Ala
G. B. Carnes.....Stock's Mill, Ala
J. H. Henderson.....Hebron, Ala

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